

THE HALE FOUNDATION

SUITE 208
422 FIRST STREET, S E
WASHINGTON, D C 20003
(202) 546-2293

November 21, 1985

A BIPARTISAN TRIBUTE TO THE CIA

During floor debate in the U.S. Senate on November 7, 1985, Senator David F. Durenberger (R-MN) Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, and Senator Ernest F. Hollings (D-S.C.), a member of the Appropriations Committee, among others, had highly complimentary things to say about the Central Intelligence Agency and the dedicated men and women who serve the Agency. At this time, particularly, with conflicting media reports on the quality of the work of the CIA, these bipartisan remarks help put the matter of CIA's reputation and its employees in better perspective.

The Hale Foundation, believing in a strong U.S. intelligence capability, reprints these remarks as a reminder of the true nature of the work of the CIA, and especially its overseas officers, and the valuable contribution made by them to our nation's survival:

Senator Durenberger. "As you are aware, the CIA has come under a great deal of public and congressional scrutiny in the past decade and certainly in the past week. Unfortunately, what you are not seeing or hearing are the thousands of actions they are doing right on a daily basis. In particular, we are consistently demanding that our intelligence officers abroad provide more and more information on hostile intentions, especially those of terrorists.

"This involves risk. More and more of our CIA field personnel are being subjected to threats and abuse. Two years ago we witnessed an example of this when a number of them were killed by a terrorist bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut. And as their assignment became more hazardous and demanding, the special mental and physical requirements necessary of the intelligence officer increase dramatically.

"To meet this standard the CIA must continually replace its officers overseas with younger personnel whose identities are not known and who can stand up to the stresses of their environment.

"Our intelligence officers face hazards unknown to other overseas or law enforcement personnel. They and their families must lead their lives undercover, never telling friends and

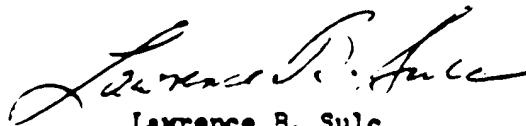
acquaintances of their true mission and responsibilities. In a world filled with terrorism, their very safety and lives are at stake if their cover is revealed. Most of these officers also work two jobs -- their cover employment and their agency duties. And, finally, the nature of this work is very exacting, dangerous, and difficult. In short, it is unlike any other work in government.

"...there is a great need for a strong and effective human intelligence service in today's international environment. My service on the Select Committee on Intelligence has made me well aware of how much we depend on the fine men and women of our intelligence community. Their responsibilities are unique and their contribution is unparalleled.

Mr. Hollings. "The men and women who serve in the Central Intelligence Agency are some of the finest we have in public service. They are first class in terms of experience, expertise, and special skills. Their responsibilities are difficult, unique, and often life-threatening. And, their successes are never publicly acknowledged. They are truly the front line of a "silent war" against terrorism, subversion, and attacks upon the United States and its allies.

"....our overseas intelligence officers face hazards unknown to the Foreign Service or law enforcement personnel. They and their families must lead their lives undercover, never revealing their true mission to friends or acquaintances. If their cover is ever revealed, their very safety and lives are at risk. At this moment there is a memorial at Langley for over 70 intelligence officers who have given their lives in service to this country. More names will be added as a result of the Embassy bombing in Beirut and other recent acts of terrorism. And, finally, most of these officers work two jobs -- their cover employment and their agency duties.

"In short, the work of an intelligence officer is very exacting, difficult, and dangerous. It is unlike any other work in government. Yet the Government cannot offer top salaries to this talented and highly skilled group of professionals. Instead, we have to largely rely on their sense of duty, loyalty, and idealism."



Lawrence B. Sule

President
THE HALE FOUNDATION